



The Prayer Book Society of Canada
National Chairman - The Rev'd Dr. Gordon R. Maitland

Lent 2022

Dear friends and supporters of the Book of Common Prayer,

It is just as we were beginning to see an end of pandemic restrictions and the possibility of better times returning that we have now been confronted by the tragedy of the war in Ukraine. The images of destruction and suffering should move us to prayer and intercession for peace, for those displaced by combat, and for those who are actually fighting. We are reminded of the importance and power of prayer, and this should always be a concern for us as a Society devoted to preserving a Book of Common Prayer.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the 1962 Canadian BCP becoming our official Prayer Book. In the newsletter accompanying this cover letter you will find an article on important dates relevant to the history of our Canadian version of the BCP, and I encourage you to mark these dates in your parish or worship context. The article contains a link to a page on our website with suggested liturgical resources to assist you in your worship planning.

One initiative we have taken as a Society is assisting BCP friendly seminarians with bursaries. One of the articles in our newsletter is written by such a bursary recipient, Matthew Lee, and it gives a trenchant perspective on the struggles and concerns facing those who are preparing for ordained ministry in these unsettled times. In a very different ministry context, we are pleased to have a report from the Very Revd. Chris Dow, Dean of the Diocese of the Arctic and one of the National Councillors of the PBSC, about life in Canada's far north, which also provides an update on his ongoing efforts to produce an Inuktitut version of our Common Prayer Canada app for use by the indigenous people of Nunavut.

This year's Annual General Meeting of the PBSC will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 28, at Wycliffe College in Toronto. This will be the first in-person meeting of the AGM since 2019. The last two AGMs were held electronically via Zoom, which actually had the advantage of giving us better attendance than we often got when holding in-person meetings. It is for this reason that Wycliffe was chosen as the location for this year's AGM, since the College has classrooms that are wired for remote learning, which will enable us to have a hybrid meeting where some people are physically present and others Zoom in remotely. The link for attending the AGM remotely, along with various supporting documents, will be available on our website closer to the meeting date. I encourage you to participate in this annual business meeting and learn more about the Society's work.

As many of you probably know, the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, which was supposed to take place this summer in Calgary, has been indefinitely postponed. However, the Lambeth Conference of all the bishops of the Anglican Communion is going ahead as planned at the end of July, and we are in discussions with the English and American Prayer Book Societies as to the possibility of having a joint display booth at the Conference. This will present us with a unique opportunity to reach

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out to the hundreds of bishops attending the event, and I hope to have more details about our plans in our next mailing later in the spring.

Finally, if you are not already familiar with the news journal called *The Anglican Planet*, I would like to commend it to your attention. Although some might see it as a rival to the *Anglican Journal*, I believe that they are complementary. The *Journal* tends to be focussed nowadays mainly on social justice issues, whereas the *Planet* regularly contains devotional articles and certain other interesting items such as lesser-known Anglican news stories from Canada and around the world, biographies and interviews of inspiring individuals, and book and film reviews. *The Anglican Planet* is available either online or as a print journal, and you can find out more about it by visiting their website, <https://anglicanplanet.net/>.

The two major upcoming projects that I mentioned above, taking part in the Lambeth Conference and extending the Common Prayer Canada app to include Inuktitut (and eventually other indigenous languages as well) will of course involve additional expenditures on the part of the Society, and so I appeal to your generosity to make these initiatives a reality. As always, a reply envelope is included with this mailing, or if you prefer you can visit our website and use the CanadaHelps link on our “Donate” page. Any assistance that you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Please remember to keep the Society and its members in your prayers. We hope that all that we do will be to the glory of God and the advancement of his Kingdom on earth. May the Lord grant you a spiritually profitable Lent and a joyous Easter.

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon R. Maitland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a small cross at the end of the line.

The Rev'd Dr. Gordon R. Maitland